



Eddie A. Perez
Mayor

STATEMENT FROM MAYOR PEREZ

---NEWS RELEASE---

(January 27, 2009) --- Mayor Eddie A. Perez has issued the following statement during a news conference in regards to the allegations made by the Office of the Chief State's Attorney:

Thank you for coming

In August of 2007, I informed the public that inspectors from the Chief State's Attorney's Office had searched my home in connection with work performed on my kitchen and bathroom by Carlos Costa a city contractor. At that time, I released documentation illustrating I always intended to pay Costa for the work and my actual payment of the bill presented.

Today, I was served a warrant by the Chief State's Attorney's Office alleging those home improvements were the basis for me taking an official action that benefited Mr. Costa.

Let me begin by apologizing to the people of Hartford, city employees and my family. I should have never used a city contractor to conduct improvements on my home. It was inappropriate and inexcusable. I should never have allowed the perception of impropriety to color my administration.

The people of Hartford have voted for me twice since I made these allegations public, and I remain humbled that they have selected me to work with them to make our city a better place. That is why I intend to serve out my term and complete the job I was hired to do.

That being said, I have never traded my public position for a private benefit and I am deeply disturbed by the allegations contained in the warrant affidavit.

My office has always taken a business friendly approach. I am proud that we have always worked with scores of businesses large and small to resolve issues with city government. However, at no point have I used my position to improperly benefit any business or individual.

Over the next days, weeks and months I expect additional facts will come out that refute the allegations in the arrest warrant. I look forward to addressing these charges in court.

However, I am deeply sorry for how my actions have impacted the city and my family. I have a renewed resolve to carry out the important work before us.